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Message Text

SECRET

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43
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
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EXDIS

FOR EUR ASST SEC HARTMAN FROM DE PORTE/CALDWELL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PO GW
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION ON PORTUGAL

1. AFTER CALL ON AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND OCTOBER 15, TALKED TO MUNZ, VON ARNIM, AND BENSCH OF SOUTHERN EUROPEAN SECTION AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, ACCOMPANIED BY EMBOFF ROBERT REMOLE. ALMOST TWO-HOUR CONVERSATION PRODUCED FOLLOWING HIGHLIGHTS.

2. IN GERMAN VIEW MFA LEADERS NOT COMMUNIST. NOTWITH-STANDING OBVIOUS STRENGTH OF PCP AND ALL THE WELL KNOWN DOUBTS AND QUESTIONS ABOUT GONCALVES AND OTHERS, ON WHICH GERMANS COULD CAST NO LIGHT, MOVEMENT WILL BE TOWARD SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT. ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD, THOUGH PERHAPS DELAYED SOMEWHAT. GERMAN EMBASSY LISBON'S ROUGH PREDICTION OF FREE ELECTION OUT-COME: PCP 20 PERCENT; PPD 20 PERCENT; PSP "SOMEWHAT LESS," REMAINDER UNSPECIFIED. GERMANS OBVIOUSLY PARTIAL TO AND OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PSP.

3. GERMAN CONTACTS WITH PORTUGUESE PROVISIONAL GOVERN-MENT MIRROR BRITISH: GENERAL OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE EAGERLY ACCEPTED BUT NOT FOLLOWED UP BY PORTUGUESE. MUNZ SEES GOVERNMENT INTERNALLY DIVIDED, MAKING EFFEC-
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TIVE DECISION-MAKING DIFFICULT. MOREOVER, CONCENTRATION

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ON DECOLONIZATION WILL LEAVE LITTLE TIME FOR SOLVING
OTHER DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS.

4. MUNZ BELIEVES GOVERNMENT DIVIDED OVER ASSOCIATION
WITH EC, BUT WILL MOVE TOWARD IT SLOWLY BY WAY OF
IMPROVING TRADE AGREEMENT. FRG HAS SET ASIDE A MODEST
SUM IN NEXT YEAR'S MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
BUDGET FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL, THOUGH WITH
NO SPECIFIC PROJECTS IN MIND. MUNZ SEES GOVERNMENT SO
DISORGANIZED AND PREOCCUPIED WITH OTHER MATTERS THAT
IT NEEDS SPECIFIC PROGRAM PROPOSALS FROM POTENTIAL AID
DONORS. AID MAY HAVE TO COMPENSATE FOR DECLINING PRI-
VATE FOREIGN INVESTMENT. THUS FAR GERMANY'S 60,000
PORTUGUESE GUEST WORKERS HAVE NOT RETURNED HOME TO CON-
TRIBUTE TO COUNTRY'S GROWING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

5. SPD HAS OFFERED ASSISTANCE TO PSP, BUT OFFERS NOT
IMPLEMENTED FOR LACK OF PSP FOLLOW-UP. JUSTICE MINISTER
SALGADO ZENHA VIEWED AS PARTY'S RISING STAR. CDU HAS
NO PROTEGE PARTY, ALTHOUGH PCDS HAS APPROACHED IT. PPD
HAS TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TC ESTABLISH TIES WITH SPD.
GERMAN GOVERNMENT HAS SUGGESTED TO PPD THAT IT CONTACT
THE CDU.

6. GERMANS TAKING EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS HOPE TO
PORTUGUESE THAT THERE WILL BE FREE ELECTIONS. BRANDT
WILL DO SO DURING HIS COMING VISIT. MUNZ HOPES BRANDT
WILL SHED SOME LIGHT ON THE VERY CONFUSED PORTUGUESE
SITUATION.

7. RE PORTUGUESE NATO PARTICIPATION, MR. PFEFFER OF
NATO SECTION EXPRESSED HOPE THAT NPG WILL NOT BE WATERED
DOWN DUE TO PROBLEM OF PORTUGUESE PARTICIPATION. GER-
MAN INTEREST IN NPG SHOULD HAVE PRIORITY FOR US, AT
LEAST AFTER NEXT MEETING. IN GENERAL, ACCORDING TO MUNZ,
ALLIES SHOULD NOT CONFRONT OR EMBARRASS PORTUGUESE GOV-
ERNMENT.

8. COMMENT: GERMANS HAVE NOT FOCUSED ON PORTUGUESE
SITUATION TO EXTENT BRITISH HAVE. THEY DO NOT APPEAR
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PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT PORTUGAL AND ARE HOPING FOR
THE BEST WHILE RECOGNIZING THE OBSTACLES THE PROVISIONAL
GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO SURMOUNT IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A
STABLE PRO-WESTERN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC REGIME.
IRWIN

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